It's Sunday morning, it's 9:45 and you are listening to WUJC , 88.7 FM and that can mean only one thing. It's time once again for the English language portion of the Lithuanian Voice Radio Program. Good morning on this the 19th day of March, 1995. A special welcome to the Knights of Lithuania and their families.

As a service to our English speaking listeners, we present this summary of the week's news stories from Lithuania as well as items of local interest, read in English. Our news comes to us courtesy of the Open Media Research Institute by way of the Internet. Email services are graciously provided by John Carroll University Computer Network Services.

HEAD OF LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT APOLOGIZES FOR COMMUNIST CRIMES

VILNIUS, Mar 13, BNS - Lithuanian parliament chairman Ceslovas Jursenas has publicly apologized for Soviet era crimes committed by the Communists. "I had been a member of the Communist Party for over 20 years. I feel moral responsibility for those who committed crimes against the Lithuanian nation and the state on behalf of the party," Ceslovas Jursenas said at a special parliament session held Saturday March 11th to mark the 5th anniversary of Lithuanian independence restoration.

"I would like to ask for forgiveness for those Communists and nonparty men who collaborated with the subjugators, persecuted, deported, imprisoned and tortured innocent people," Jursenas said in the presence of the country's leaders and foreign diplomats.

Press sources said the apology had been coordinated in advance with the leadership of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party of former Communists. Jursenas is a member of the LDLP Presidium. Meanwhile, President Algirdas Brazauskas, formerly the first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party, said in a television interview last week he saw no need to apologize for Communist crimes.